

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 4th January 1879.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Barāhanagar	4,000	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād"	Rājshāhye ... ..	.....
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhavanīpore ... ..	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ... ..	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Cālnā Prakāsh"	Cālnā ... ..	.....
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawābgunge, Barrack-pore. ... ..	.....
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta ... ..	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta ... ..	.....
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	658	26th December 1878.
11	"Bhārat Sanskāra"	Harinābhi ... ..	.....
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ... ..	.....
13	"Bishva Dūt"	Tāliganj, Calcutta ... ..	.....
14	"Bardwān Prachārikā"	Bardwān	165	
15	"Bardwān Sanjivānī"	Ditto ... ..	.....	31st ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	400	29th ditto.
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,168	27th ditto.
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	28th ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishinī"	Dacca	300	28th ditto.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beaulah, Rājshāhye	200	25th ditto.
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ... ..	.....
22	"Pratikār"	Ditto	235	27th ditto.
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinī, Rangpore	250	26th ditto.
24	"Sādhārānī"	Chinsurah	516	29th ditto.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta ... ..	.....	30th ditto.
26	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Ditto ... ..	.....
27	"Sanjivānī"	Mymensingh ... ..	.....	24th ditto.
28	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	5,500	28th ditto.
29	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhavanīpore	700	30th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
30	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta	4,000	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
31	"Samāchāra Sudhābarshana"	Calcutta ... ..	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
32	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	550	27th to 30th December 1878.
33	"Sambād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ... ..	.....	27th to 31st Dec. 1878 & 2nd Jan. 1879.
34	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	
35	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto ... ..	.....
36	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ... ..	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah	300	
38	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ... ..	.....
39	"Barisāl Vartābāha"	Barisāl	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
40	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	28th December 1878.
<i>Urdu.</i>				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
41	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār"	Mazufferpore ... ..	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	509	1st January 1879.
43	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ... ..	.....	26th Dec. 1878 and 2nd Jan. 1879.
PERSIAN.				
44	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	27th December 1878.

POLITICAL.

RANGPUR DIK
PRAKASHA,
December 26th, 1878.

1. ALLUDING to the discussion now going on in Parliament and elsewhere as to the propriety of saddling India with the costs of the *Cábul* war, the *Rangpur Dik Prakasha* remarks, that the Home Secretary admitted in answer to a question, that the trader and peasant classes especially, but in fact almost all the natives in India, were in great straits for want of food. Personal inspection of the actual state of the people would fully satisfy Englishmen as to the reality of the prevailing severe distress. Notwithstanding this, we have to meet the license tax in addition to the house, road, and public works and other taxes. To make the people of a country in so distressed a state bear the burden of even a portion of the war costs, must end in their destruction. We cannot endure another tax. England is rich, and should relieve us of the burden. The British Indian, the Indian, and other local associations have already petitioned Parliament against the contemplated wrong. From what we hear of the turn matters are taking in this respect, we have no hope of success.

DACCA PRAKASH,
December 27th, 1878.

2. The *Dacca Prakasha*, in giving its readers the contents of the despatch of the 20th November last, from the Secretary of State for India to the Governor-General, remarks that the intentions of the British Government towards *Cábul* are plainly set out therein. It has long been the intention of England to reduce *Afghánistán* to a state of dependence. This is the reason why the present *Afghán* war has been undertaken.

PRATIKARA,
December 27th, 1878.

3. The *Pratikara* says, every one has been taken by surprise to hear of the flight of the *Amír*, a man renowned for bravery, an independent ruler, well up in the arts of war, and a man of personal courage, who for five years fought his brothers for the possession of the kingdom which he subsequently obtained. He boasted at the *Amballá* Conference of his liking for battle and war; and for such a man to betake himself to precipitate flight with his family without once crossing arms with his adversaries puzzles us. The trust he had in Russia prompted him to refuse the English Mission. The presentation of a sword to the *Amír* and the words used by the Russian General in presenting it strengthened his confidence. Eventually, however, when the *Amír* saw all hope of Russian aid gone, he thought flight the best thing for him. Had *Dost Muhammad Khán* been living, he would have seen matters to the very end; but the *Amír* is unlike him. If *Yákub Khán*, when the *Afgháns* are attacked, should become the ruler of *Cábul*, the people will fight for him to the utmost of their power, so long as there is any hope of *Afghán* independence being maintained. It may be that the *Amír* has withdrawn from his throne and country in the hope of being able by personal endeavours to secure aid from outside, and that it is with this view he has left the government with his heroic son *Yákub Khán*, as the best person to whom the administration of the country could be committed.

SULABH SAMACHARA,
December 28th, 1878.

4. The *Sulabh Samachara* traces a similarity between the incidents of the *Cábul* war of 1840 A.D. and those of the present war. As *Dost Muhammad* fled with his family on receiving intelligence of the fall of *Ghazni*, so has *Shere Ali* fled on hearing of the fall of *Ali Masjid*. Lord Auckland's Government busied itself with a scheme for the administration of *Afghánistán*, and now again the same question is on the tapis; our only hope is that on the present occasion our Government will provide against a recurrence of the calamities of the first *Afghán* war.

An old and esteemed friend informs us that Lord Auckland, on hearing of the disasters that overtook the English in *Afghanistan*, raved like a mad man through grief. The *Cábulis* carry out by artifice, treachery, and deceit, designs which they cannot accomplish by force. Let not our rulers despise the invaluable lessons of history. Let them remember also that it is infinitely more difficult to keep and preserve *Afghanistan* than to conquer it.

5. Flight, remarks the *Sangbad Prabhakara*, seems to be the family complaint of *Afghan* rulers. *Shere Ali*, with whom his subjects were discontented, has

The flight of the Amir.

fled. How could the jackal cope with the British lion? Events are following the same course in this third *Cábul* war as they did in the time of the present *Amir's* father, *Dost Muhammad*. There are various rumours afloat as to *Yakub Khan's* accession to the throne of *Cábul*, and his intention to fight the English after collecting sufficient troops. If this be true, the Indian Government must have prepared itself. There can be very little truth in the report circulated by the *Golos*, that Russia is pledged to support the *Amir*. Had this been the case, men and money would have been forthcoming before this. The withdrawal of the Russian Mission, in obedience to English demands, goes to show that no aid can be expected by the *Amir* now from Russia. Should *Yakub Khan* follow in the footsteps of his father, he will meet a fate similar to his father's. Even though the rumours of prevailing anarchy in *Cábul* and of the uninterrupted successful progress of the English arms be true, we would still strongly dissuade our Government from pushing European troops on to *Jelálábád* during the present winter. It will not do to place implicit trust in the population of this place. Another massacre may be the result. If *Yakub Khan* enters into a treaty, well and good; if not, matters can be managed at a more convenient season. At all events, it will be better to wait a few months.

SANGBAD
PRABHAKARA,
December 28th, 1878.

6. The *Amir*, against whom vast preparations have been made for the past two years, has fled; and now against whom, asks the *Som Prakasha*, are the English fighting? Instead of desisting, they seem

Against whom are the English fighting?

more eager than ever for war. This reminds us of a story that is told of a person who was so mad after chess-playing that when he could get no one else as an opponent, he used to get hold of a child to play with him, and then conduct both sides of the game himself. Lord Lytton declared in his proclamation that his object was not to deprive *Cábul* of its independence, but to punish the obstinacy of the *Amir*. As there is no relaxation of the war yet, it would seem that the latter is not the real object of the war. Flight and death are proverbially equivalents. After an enemy had betaken himself to flight, our *Hindu* heroes would not touch him. The loss consequent on this war must outweigh any advantage to be gained by it. A century of English rule has failed to influence the *Musulmán* mind. The Turks in Europe remain unchangeable. There is no likelihood, therefore, of the *Cábulis* becoming civilized. The English will, as we have said, lose two great things by the present war: first, they will lose all credit for that incomparable justice by strength of which they reign over India, and on account of which they are respected and revered by the world at large; secondly, they are committing the act which all true heroes must despise, viz., the annexing of the *Amir's* kingdom after he had fled from it through fear. It may be said that the *Amir* may re-ascend his throne as his father did; if so, where is the harm? There is no fear of his being able to create a disturbance in British territory. Mr. Stephen is afraid the Russians will get hold of the *Amir* to aid them. We do not believe it, because if Russia

SOM PRAKASHA,
December 30th, 1878.

wished, she could get to *Cábul* with the aid of the *Sháh* of *Persia*. Lord Beaconsfield, who is at the bottom of all the present disturbances, plain said the other day, that it was not possible for Russia to invade India. If this *Cábul* war has been entered on with the view to stave off Russian aggression, then the English may as well take possession of China, Persia, Central Asia, &c. Another great injury to the English is, that Russia, from having heretofore ranked as a fourth or fifth-rate European power, has risen to be a first class power, and the English have lost ground. Russia, it is true, attacked Turkey unjustly, but she fortified herself with a good reason, viz. the deliverance of the Christians of Turkey from the *Muhammadan* yoke, and this deliverance she accomplished bravely, without any taint of cowardice. The English, however, have no such plea to justify their invasion of *Cábul*. It is clear that England is acting unjustly in attacking a weak and innocent ruler. The *Afgháns* are admittedly inferior to the Turks, who opposed double and treble their number of Russian forces for six months, whilst the *Cábul* affair occupied barely six days. The Russians had to fight hard for their victories; not so the English, at whose very advance places fall. Another great injury is, that the people have lost confidence in the English, who were heretofore deemed incapable of doing anything wrong. What connection has India with *Cábul*, that we should be made to pay the costs of the war? We will conclude by putting certain questions: A rich man desires his poor neighbour to pull down his thatched house, as it is the abode of malaria, and to erect instead a brick house, and adds that if he fails to do as desired, his house will be taken possession of. The poor man has not the means to meet the wishes of the rich man, whereupon the rich man seizes the thatched house of his poor neighbour. In such a case, would English courts of justice admit the suit of the poor man? And would these courts saddle the poor man with the costs the rich man may have incurred in defending the suit? Would not Government punish a *zamindár* who spent a *lakh* of rupees on his son's wedding and sought to levy that sum from his tenants? But on what plea could it do so? If it be on the plea of the peasant's poverty, the *zamindár* could easily show that his tenants were well off, and even had a surplus in hand and other property besides, such as metal pots and pans, &c., which might be sold if needs be; the people contenting themselves with earthenware. Would such an attempt on the part of the *zamindár* to justify himself be accepted?

SOM PRÁKASH,
December 30th, 1878.

7. The *Som Prákásha*, in giving the correspondence on the *Afghán* question, rejoices that our rulers no longer seek to conceal what has been done. Even an injustice is alleviated and softened down by a publication of the whole transaction, when it may be thoroughly discussed. We have a native proverb to the effect that sin is wiped out when exposed to public view. The editor intersperses his translation of the correspondence with comments tending to show how the *Amír*, who had hitherto been friendly to the English, lost all friendly feeling owing to the English having failed to appreciate his character. The *Amír's* mind has now long been alienated from us. Lord Beaconsfield fell into error in dealing with him. Lord Northbrook's views were sounder, but they could not be carried out for want of time. English honor has suffered from the way in which England's present Premier has managed the *Cábul* affair. The hopes of the poor and weak, who hitherto relied on English justice, have vanished. The acceptance of the Russian and rejection of the British Mission by the *Amír* are not criminal acts. If the British, notwithstanding this unfair invasion of *Afghánistán* are not doing wrong, how can the *Amír* be condemned for wishing to preserve his independence? Russia may hate England and have an eye on India, but she does not

wish just now to be embroiled with the British. Her time is yet distant. There is another great piece of injustice, viz., that a clear treaty exists, providing that there shall no British representative be located in *Cábul*. With what fairness can this stipulation be ignored? Does not the word *Cábul* include *Herat*, *Cándáhar*, and other places subordinate thereto?

8. The *Sahachara* thinks that if *Afghánistán* is annexed to India, it will become another Serbia. Our Premier

SAHACHARA,
December 30th, 1878.

Lord Beaconsfield.

has been ensnared by Russia, and he wishes

to show the world how cleverly he can get out of the trap. The capture of *Ali Masjid*, a petty fort, has been made much of, as if it had been a great victory. The *Afgháns* did not defend the fort. The British army, however, can show it has lost none of its power since Waterloo. Can Lord Beaconsfield vie in ability or capacity for work with Castlereagh, Channing, Palmerston, and others? No European Government refused to listen to Lord Palmerston; but European Governments laugh at Lord Beaconsfield. We repeat, that the English are beginning to fight shy of the present policy. They wish to see real work and no tomfoolery, and it is owing to this characteristic and to the uprightness of the people that England is universally respected. The present Cabinet have forsaken the path of rectitude. The time for expiation, however, is at hand. The Liberal party is gaining strength and will soon be well supported.

9. The *Englishman* of the 21st ultimo, remarks the *Bardwan Sanjivant*, charges the native press and the

BARDWAN SANJIVANT,
December 31st, 1878.

The Calcutta *Englishman* and
native disloyalty.

British Indian Association with disloyalty in
opposing the payment by India, for whose

protection and benefit the present war has been undertaken, of the cost incurred in it. The English editor contrasts their conduct with that of the Native Princes, who have, unsolicited, come with ready proffers of aid in men and money. The writer protests against such comparisons on the following grounds. The native papers after setting forth the dire distress and poverty of the country, prayed the British Government to be delivered from the burden of the cost of the war, and appealed to the well-known character of the English nation. They wrote boldly, and by so doing, showed their confidence and loyalty, rather than their disloyalty. We brought no accusations against our ruler, nor did we use any harsh terms, peremptorily refusing to pay; but we implored the English nation, as being better able than we, to bear the burden. The Native Princes very eagerly, indeed, offered to assist the sovereign power, and we trust they will ever continue thus to evince their loyalty. As for us, we have neither the power nor the means to do anything; if we had, and held back, we might then have been accused of disloyalty. So far as to the first part of our English contemporary's article. We frankly admit the great privileges, &c., we enjoy under our Government, and the benefit the country has derived from it; but has the present war been really engaged in to preserve India? We have no right to ask the question, but our contemporary's remarks have driven us to do so. The Secretary of State asserts that it is to ward off a foreign enemy. Is the punishment inflicted on the *Amir* intended to save India? He never attempted an invasion. Are the dreams of our rulers as to Russian invasion and *Afghán* alliance with Russia to be understood to mean the protection of India? We wish to say nothing here about the justice or otherwise of the war, or about its cost. Let our income be spent as our conquerors choose. To be accused of disloyalty by the *Englishman* when we become exceedingly terrified and represent our views to Government, perhaps in ignorance of some rules, is not proper. We know what loyalty means. No loyal subject should urge his sovereign to the continued commission of a wrong to which that ruler has committed himself.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

SANJIVANI,
December 24th, 1878.

10. The *Sanjivani* remarks that to grind down that which has been already crushed, and to burn that which has been already burnt, is unendurable. What are we to do, and to whom are we to complain? The heavy burden of the license tax has come upon us, at a time when the country is suffering from famine and the people are crying out on all sides. The *mafussal* assessments by the circle assessors and their *amlahs* have occasioned great oppression to the poor, many of whom have been illegally taxed. Appeals in respect of license tax assessments have to be entrusted to the very men who made the assessments, and the poor are compelled to leave their work and go long distances to the places where their appeals are appointed to be heard. When a man has to undertake a five days' journey that he might pay in his tax at the principal town of the district, he suffers an additional wrong, which he might well be spared in these times of famine.

BHARAT MIHIR,
December 26th, 1878.

11. The *Bhārat Mihir* remarks that, owing to a circular order from the Lieutenant-Governor to Collectors, urging a reduction of expenditure, Mr. Money, the Judge, has abolished the post of peon in *Munsifs'* offices, some of which before that had scarcely a sufficient establishment. The *Munsifs* are not bold enough to remonstrate. A former Judge, Mr. Grant, did a similar thing, but his orders were set aside by the High Court. We cannot say how far such petty savings will swell the income of Government. Our advice that Sir Ashley Eden should take note of the many highly paid but useless officers under him, is disregarded.

RANGPUR DIK
PRAKASHA,
December 26th, 1878.

12. People who would willingly pay a certain sum on any emergent call, says the *Rangpur Dik Prakasha*, dislike being thus taxed. The road tax makes one's blood curdle. People must obey the orders of Government, and they are, therefore, during these times of scarcity, managing to pay the license tax. But in addition to this sore burden, we have the oppression and injustice of the assessors to contend against. *Dinājpur* has already furnished an illustration of the exactions perpetrated by an assessor. The tax itself is harsh enough, but the conduct of the assessors towards the poor is harsher. When the house tax first began to be collected in *Rangpur*, the oppressions of a *Bābu* assessor turned day into night. We are, however, rejoiced to say that whatever injustice may have been perpetrated in other places in connection with the license tax, we in *Rangpur* have at least been spared that calamity. But we cannot vouch for the future. Let good and proper officers be appointed, and all will go on well. Our Collector deserves all praise for the excellent selections he has made in connection with license tax work. Our circle officer, *Munshi Syad Abbul Hosein*, is an instance. (The remainder of the article, consisting of about two columns, is devoted to the praise of this officer.)

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
December 27th, 1878.

13. An anonymous correspondent, writing to the *Education Gazette* from zillah *Midnapur*, recommends that sub-registrars, after registering deeds for the first half of the month at their own principal offices, should spend the rest of the month in visiting the several police stations for the purpose of registering deeds presented before them at these stations. Parties tendering documents might be identified by the police officers of the place. This plan would put a stop to fraud and injustice. Deputy Magistrates when acting as sub-registrars have often been deceived, and it is not impossible that the present sub-registrars may also be deceived. If the suggestion now made

should be acted on, the number of registrations would increase, and the Government treasury would be the gainer. People too would register deeds and documents which are now not registered solely on account of the inconvenience involved in a journey to a sub-registrar's office.

14. Whilst the Accountant-General, remarks the *Hindu Hitaishini*, is troubling himself about disallowing four annas, and Government is busying itself about retrenching public expenditure by the dismissal of a few poor peons on Rs. 5 a month, we see thousands on thousands of rupees being lavishly squandered in other directions. Now, Government expenditure may be calculated by the number of its servants and the total amount of money allotted for their salaries. A reduction here would produce a smaller total. Take, for instance, some Assistant District Superintendents of Police, who are inexperienced and uneducated Europeans, and have to go through a course of instruction. Could not these men be at once done away with, and their duties entrusted to the Sudder Police Inspectors, who would carry on the work well? Besides, the duties of District Superintendents are simple and few, and do not require the aid of assistants, of whom there are more than 100. A few head-constables and constables were got rid of, in order to diminish police expenditure. We can see no reason for employing Europeans on high salaries. It may be said they occupy positions of trust. Do not natives occupy similar positions on salaries of Rs. 150 and 200? We could make out a statement and show how expenditure might be retrenched, so as to leave a surplus in the treasury. Would Commissioners of Divisions be hardly dealt with if they were paid Rs. 2,000 a month? At all events, let superfluous and useless offices be first abolished, and the exchequer will, by this means alone, be replenished. India is called the land of gold, because it abounded in wealth and tempted many. *Hindu Rájás* with all their expenditure were never in want of funds. They managed to take their subjects through famines without having recourse to subscriptions. There is very little attention paid to the management of our finances and the regulation of income and expenditure. The latter is increasing, and so is the Government debt. The Secretary of State knows nothing of the internal state of India. Our administrators here do not consider it prudent to reveal the existing state of things. A Governor-General, who would look into the matter of useless expenditure and retrench it, is what we want to relieve India. Lord Northbrook did something in this direction.

HINDU HITASHINI,
December 28th, 1878.

15. The *Dacca Prakásha* accords all praise to *Khwájá Ahsánullah* for the formation of the Eastern Bengal Landholders' Association, having the same objects in view as the British Indian Association of Western Bengal. This province being a wide and extended one, the eastern portion, which has its own separate and peculiar wants and interests, required a separate body to look after it. The conflicting interests of landlord and tenant, and the measures adopted and those contemplated by Government to reconcile party differences, demanded an institution such as our eminent townsman has now organized. This association will also keep Government informed of the actual state of the relations between tenants and landlords. It will also be the means of bringing landholders together, who will thus become better acquainted with one another, and be able to consult as to the means by which *zamindáris* may be benefited and existing evils removed. We also hear from a trustworthy source, that our new association will give itself to a consideration of the means by which waste and useless lands may be made productive, and the modes of cultivation improved. We hope that all the *zamindárs* will sympathize and aid in this work.

The newly organized Eastern Bengal
Landholders' Association.

DACCA PRAKASHA,
December 29th, 1878.

SADHARANI,
December 29th, 1878.

16. The *Sādhārani* calls the attention of the Famine Commission to the fact that it is poverty that underlies all the distress of the people. We can say for certain that the people during the times of the *Mahrattas*, the *Pindāris*, and *Akbar the Great*, were a hundred times better off than they are now under the administration of Lord Lytton. We mention this to show that the people were prosperous when they paid their rents partly in kind. They have now to pay in cash, and are therefore oftentimes reduced to great straits to meet demands for rent. It will not do to engraft the English system of rent payments upon India. We again impress upon the Commission, that the payment of rent in kind is a more convenient arrangement for the tenant, and that the cash payments which are insisted on are the chief cause of their indigence. Let the Commission arrange for the re-introduction, experimentally, of the old system in certain places. The system of *panchāyets* should be extensively revived. The tenant should also, as formerly, have a permanent right in the land. Let the relation in which the *mahājans* should stand to the people be determined. The English showed great courage in substituting their own systems for our time-revered ones; let them now be just and grant a trial to these old systems. We again warn the Famine Commissioners not to believe what Government officials say, but to test all their statements. The world does not possess officials so full of self-esteem, so inexperienced, and so full of mistaken and confused notions of things.

SAHACHARA,
December 30th, 1878.

17. The *Sahachara*, although it is at variance with Lord Lytton's government on the subject of the Press Act and the License Tax, remarks that India must be grateful to him for his great liberality in treating all newspapers alike in the matter of news from the Press Commissioners. We are glad too to see from Sir Erskine Perry's letter, that the long desired admission of natives into the Civil Service is to be at once carried into effect. The Secretary of State supports Lord Lytton in his wishes to give immediate effect to the scheme. This will ever connect our Viceroy's name with the progress of India. India must henceforth be considered an appanage of Britain, as Ireland is; for Government by despatching Indian troops to Malta, declared that this country must identify itself with the mother country. We shall enjoy the same rights as the rest of Her Majesty's subjects, but to this we must come gradually. Government should admit a native into the Supreme Council, who would keep the Viceroy from making mistakes. We trust that Lord Lytton will go on prospering. History bears testimony to the fact, that a Government which gives to every subject his right, need dread no calamity.

SOM PRAKASHA,
December 30th, 1878.

18. Our Lieutenant-Governor, remarks the *Som Prakasha*, has directed earnest attention to the financial arrangements connected with our municipalities, and is much incensed at the way in which their accounts have hitherto been kept. But in so doing he is proving the correctness of the moral attached to the fable of the boys and the frogs. The municipalities are in fault: the poor people under them are to be the sufferers. Two-thirds of municipal income go to the police, and if Mr. Eden meddles with the small remainder, the Commissioners will have nothing left to use. He wishes to have a regular accountant's department with Mr. Taylor at the head. This will involve an expenditure of eight or ten thousand rupees a month. Where is this money to come from? If from the Corporation, then the Commissioners will have very little left to do. Tax-payers' contributions are intended primarily for sanitary purposes. We are willing to accept the good intentions of our Lieutenant-Governor, and to admit that the municipalities do require to be improved; but surely

an expenditure that is already wasteful cannot be corrected by the greater waste implied in the establishment of a new department. Let the police officials, who are paid out of municipal funds, be entrusted with the management of the finances, aided by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who, if they are efficient and capable workers, will prevent waste. We advise the Lieutenant-Governor not to act hurriedly. If he increases municipal taxes for the purpose of the new department, the people, already heavily burdened, must starve or deny themselves food.

19. An anonymous correspondent writing to the *Som Prakasha*, under date the 24th ultimo, takes the police to task for having permitted the burial of the body of one Mrs. Davis, who was found by her husband lying dead in her house at *Mokámeh*. Mr. Davis was anxious to find out the cause of his wife's death, as she had not been previously ill; and the native doctor, having no proper means of conducting a *post mortem* examination, repeatedly telegraphed to Dr. Coombs to come down, but without avail. At length the native doctor gave a certificate without holding any *post mortem* inquiry, or certifying himself as to the real cause of death. On the strength of this certificate the police allowed the burial of the body. Now, remarks the writer, no one can say a word against a *sáhib's* doings, because all that he does must be taken as just and proper. We can, however, come down upon the police and take them to task for permitting the burial of a person, who, like the late Mrs. Davis, died so suddenly, without a sufficient certificate as to the cause of death.

SOM PRAKASHA,
December 30th, 1878.

20. The *Behár Bandhu* regrets to observe, that of the public events which have transpired during the past year 1878, not one can be regarded as having benefited India; on the contrary there are many which have wrought evil to this country. First in importance was the Russo-Turkish war, during which both *Hindus* and *Musalmáns* parted with much money in the shape of subscriptions for Turkish relief. Then there is the restriction laid on the native press. Thirdly, the famine in the North-West, which has brought poverty to the homes of many of the hitherto wealthy, and caused deaths through starvation. Besides this, there was a universal famine throughout India during the whole of last year. Fourthly, the license tax, the imposing of which has been tantamount to taking the lives of the people. The poorest of poor traders, such as tobacco vendors, have to pay the tax. Fifthly, the greatest disaster has been the *Cábul* war, the cost of which is to be paid by India. This will not only ruin the *Hindustanis*, but stop all progress and improvement here. *Behár* is even worse off. The Behar Improvement and Literary Associations exist only in name. The excitement consequent on the introduction of the *Nágri* character, which rose so high in 1875-76, has cooled down. The *Behár Gazette*, from which we had hoped for some success to the cause of *Nágri*, is now being published in Calcutta, and its last state is even worse than the first.

BEHAR BANDHU,
January 1st, 1879.

EDUCATION.

21. The *Hindu Ranjika* infers from the statistics furnished in the late Report on Education in Bengal, that natives will for the future be able to provide their own education independently of Government. The results of the Entrance and B.A. Examinations during the past year were very bad. The fault must be laid at the door of the examiners, who, it seems, do not know how to set questions or conduct examinations: their desire is to puzzle examinees with questions which would puzzle themselves. It is easy to examine, but

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
December 25th, 1878.

difficult to be examined. We hope the system of examinations will be improved this year under our present able Director and Registrar.

FAMINE.

RANGPUR DIK
PRAKASHA,
December 26th, 1878.

22. The *Rangpur Dik Prakasha* says, that the expectations of the people as to a fall in the prices of grain with the harvesting of the new crops, have been disappointed. The new rice is just as dear as the old, and is selling at Rs. 3-4 to Rs. 3-8 per *paccá* maund, with the probability of a still further increase in price. The *mahájans* are busy buying as much rice and paddy as they can, which they export to different places by rail. This seals the fate of the poorer and middle classes. It makes one's heart faint to think how these people are to escape starvation in the months from January to May, seeing that in the month of December articles of food are so very dear. It looks as if the forthcoming year must be fuller of calamity than the year 1280 B.S. Our rulers should set about devising some means of preventing starvation. Prices will assuredly rise very high still; and the result will be that the poor and the unprotected will perish. Let a reasonable price be fixed at which rice should be sold.

BHARAT MIHIR,
December 26th, 1878.

23. Although this is the middle of *Paus* (December), the price of rice shows no declension, but is still as high as Rs. 3-12 per maund. The poor managed to get through the month of *Agráháyana* (November) by borrowing, in the hope that their troubles would be over in the succeeding month; but they have been doomed to disappointment. They are going on incurring debt. There is no hope for *Mymensingh*, since this is its condition in the most favourable month of December.

BHARAT MIHIR.

24. An anonymous correspondent writing from *Mymensingh* to the *Bharát Mihir*, says that, although at the close of the rainy, and during the winter, months rice usually falls in price, people are still paying Rs. 3-12 per maund. In the months of *Agráháyana* and *Paus* last year it was only Rs. 2-4. What will happen in February and March we cannot say. A railway would give employment to many of the starving poor, and serve as a better means of importing food-grains than the capricious *Brahmaputra*. We fear, however, that the *Cábul* war has arrested this project, as it has arrested public works in general. To us this will be a great calamity, as Mr. Eden, to whose exertions we owe the project, has already completed half his time of rule. The license tax proceeds, wrung out of the bones of the poor are about to be misappropriated; and this within a year of the time when we were assured that it was not to be diverted from its original purpose. The people trusted Lord Lytton and Sir Ashley Eden.

SANGHAD PURNA-
CHANDRODAYA,
January 2nd, 1879.

25. We have a proverb, says the *Sanghád Púrnachundrodoya*, that December showers are a sign of prosperity. We have had these showers and though rice fell in price in the latter part of November, it has become very dear again. Rice is selling now at eleven seers for the rupee. Many people cannot get any more credit, and are therefore betaking themselves to low occupations to provide food for themselves. How very unfortunate we must be, since our Government has made persons earning an income of Rs. 8-8 per month amenable to the license tax. This sum represents the income and expenditure of the majority of those who have, perhaps, two or three children and a wife to support. Even poor unprotected widows are not exempted. No inquiry is ever made as to the debts and expenses of any one. Taxation during the present time of scarcity is like a visit from the angel of death.

LOCAL.

26. An anonymous correspondent writing without date from *Ichhápur* in *Rániganj*, complains of the irregularity of the Post Office in the distribution of letters and papers. In no other department under Government is such mismanagement permitted. Is there no law to prohibit Post Office officers from unnecessarily delaying letters and papers for the space of two and three days? The cold here is very severe. Fever is increasing. Fine rice is selling at 14, and coarse at 15, seers to the rupee. The *biri-kalái* is at 8, gram at 7, and betel-nut at 3 seers for the rupee.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
December 31st, 1878.

27. The *Sanjivani* in its local column complains, that the plan of employing *mehters* to clean out privies, hitherto adopted by the *Mymensingh* municipality, has been given up this year, and the health of the people is being threatened in consequence.

SANJIVANI,
December 24th, 1878.

28. An anonymous correspondent writing without date to the *Hindu Ranjika* from *Bámanábád*, says that cholera and fever are devastating this part of the country, and cattle are suffering from pox. There is no proper medical attendance to be had. Crocodiles, it appears, have come up from the *Padmá* to a stream not far from here; a person was carried off the other day by one of these animals. Paddy is selling at Rs. 2 a maund, and rice at 5 pice a seer. All other kinds of grain are scarce. The people have been unable to sow gram, wheat, &c., for want of seed.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
December 25th, 1878.

29. The *Bhárat Mihir* in its local columns says, that it had long been expected, from inquiries set on foot by Sir Ashley Eden, that *Netrakoná* would have a sub-division, but that this hope has been disappointed. The *Cábul war* engrosses attention, and internal affairs are neglected. We expected much from Sir Ashley Eden, but it seems his government has mainly busied itself with working out the Government of India's scheme in connection with the license tax.

BHARAT MIHIR,
December 26th, 1878.

30. This paper in its local columns approves of the petition which the people of *Hoseinpur* intend to present to the Lieutenant-Governor with the view of having the head-quarters of the sub-division removed from *Kishorganj* to *Hoseinpur*. The *Munsif's* court is at *Hoseinpur* and the criminal court is at *Kishorganj*. It would be much better if both courts were held in one place so as to suit the convenience of the residents. As to the place to be selected, that is a matter which may be decided by the proper authorities. The reasons advanced by the petitioners for the proposed change are strong.

BHARAT MIHIR

31. The *Bhárat Mihir* under its local heading remarks, that no *mafussal* municipality can be expected to thrive unless the Deputy Magistrate of the sub-division takes an active interest in its affairs, and especially in its finances, for he exercises a greater influence on local society than the *Munsif*. The existence of the *Tángáil* municipality is known only by the few poor *chaukidárs* who are to be seen. *Tángáil* possesses just a few roads which are not of much good to the public, though they serve to fatten a few lucky individuals. The only place where the *Porábári* road is to be found, is the map.

BHARAT MIHIR.

32. The *Bhárat Mihir's* correspondent is surprised to find that native doctors have not accepted the recent orders of the Lieutenant-Governor prohibiting private

BHARAT MIHIR.

practice. The native doctor of *Kishorganj*, who has charge of the jail and the charitable dispensary, neglects his work and busies himself with private patients. He has four hours at least in the morning allotted for duty, but he is never punctual, and the poor are the sufferers. We ask the Civil Surgeon to look a little more after the work done daily by the native doctors under him.

BHARAT MIHIR,
December 26th, 1878.

33. The *Pabná* correspondent of this paper complains of the inconvenience arising from the want of a bridge over the *Ichhámáti* near the *Pabná* bazar. We

trust that the Magistrate will see that the bridge now being constructed admits of the water running freely to the north of the bridge, else the water in that part will remain foul. A bridge constructed near the *Singa* village in the narrowest part of the stream, will supply every want. We pray that justice may be done to a man who appealed against being assessed at Rs. 20: evidence was adduced by him in support of his representation, but a witness asserted that his income was five or six thousand rupees, whereupon he was assessed at Rs. 12. The fact is that he actually earns only five or six hundred rupees. The village of *Kálbári* in the *Mathra thaná* of *Zillah Pabná* is being gradually overgrown with *jangle*.

BHARAT MIHIR.

34. The *Faridpur* correspondent of this paper says, that the Secretary to the Fair seems not to have paid any attention to the requisition made to him, not to admit dancing girls to the Fair, as also to prevent any obscenities being enacted. The *Dacca* dancing girls became a great attraction. Rice is selling here at 13 seers to the rupee.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
December 27th, 1878.

35. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, writing from *Tánádighi*, complains that fever has this year carried off about 400 persons in the above and other neighbouring villages. Scarcely four per cent. of the inhabitants are in health. Moreover small-pox has made its appearance. No proper medical attendance is to be had. The Magistrate and Joint-Magistrate are entreated to save the people from untimely death by procuring a good doctor for *Tánádighi*, which is in the very heart of this malarious district.

GRAMVARTÁ
PRAKÁSHIKA,
December 28th, 1878.

36. A correspondent of the *Grámvartá Prakáshika* announces his arrival at the village of *Kánchantolá* in the sub-division of *Cálná*, zillah *Bárdwán*, of which he says that great scarcity of food prevails there, and that rice still continues to be sold at very high rates. Notwithstanding a good crop of paddy, the people are still badly off. Government sees all this distress and hears the cries of the poor, but it will not come to their relief, nor will it stay exportations. The majority of the poor can scarcely get a meal a day. Fever, both of the old and new type, is raging here to such an extent that there is scarcely a house in the village where at least one inmate is not suffering from it. There is no proper doctor, and Government ought to station an experienced man here for some time at least.

SULABHASAMACHARA,
December 28th, 1878.

37. Referring to the existence of tramways in *Bombay* and *Madras*, and to the failure of the Municipal tramway in *Calcutta*, the editor of the *Sulabha Samáchára* proposes that one should be constructed from *Dhurumtollah* to the *Chitpore Road* at fares of two and four pice each. The venture, the writer undertakes to say, will not only pay, but yield a profit; for people are heartily disgusted with and tired of, the present hackney carriage drivers, who are *Musulmán*s, and who need to be entreated before they will let out their carriages. Cannot any rich merchant take up the proposal?

Proposal to construct a tramway between the *Dhurumtollah* and *Chitpore Roads*.

38. A *Bagurá* correspondent writing anonymously to the *Dacca Prakásha*, under date the 10th December, notices the detection, by the Inspector, of the systematic bribery of the *abkári* officials of *Bagurá* by the licensed vendors. Every body, from the *serishtadár* to the common peon, is implicated. It is hoped proper punishment will be meted out, and that every Inspector will follow the example of our *Bagurá* one. There is a general scarcity of food in the eastern part of this division; the entire paddy has been destroyed by floods. We wonder no steps have been taken to alleviate the distress, for our Magistrate has seen it with his own eyes. Some of the people are compelled to go hungry, and others are obliged to content themselves with boiled *catchu* bulbs. *Dal* and vegetables too are very dear. We never knew such high prices before. People here are in great perplexity owing to the oppression practised by the present set of police officers, and they pray earnestly for their removal. Abusive language and assaults are almost of daily occurrence. People are so terror-stricken that they have not the courage to stir in the matter. How has *Bagurá* come to be placed without the pale of law? The great ones of the police alone constitute the pillars of renown on which the British administration rests.

DACCA PRAKASHA,
December 29th, 1878.

MISCELLANEOUS.

39. The *Grámvartá Prakáshika* returns to the case of the oppressed tenants of *Biráhampur Pergunnah* (noticed in No. 16 of the last report ending the 28th December 1878), and regrets to find that no notice has yet been taken of its remarks. The editor has since received a letter from these tenants, which he refrains from publishing in full, but of which he gives the purport, hoping that *zamindárs*, as a body, and *Bábu Gyanendra Náth Tagore* in particular, will look into the conduct of their *mufussal amlahs*. If the present plan does not succeed, the editor threatens to print the letter of complaint in its entirety. The *Ránigara* tenants, it appears, proceeded to *Calcutta* and laid their complaints before the *zamindár Bábu* above mentioned, who gave them every hope that their grievances would be redressed and that justice would be done. The tenants returned home in the full expectation of getting justice, but their application was in the meanwhile transmitted by the *Bábu* to the *mufussal zamindári cutcherry*. The tenants, as a consequence, were disgraced, insulted, abused, and dismissed to their homes without redress. The oppressions they are suffering have so increased that they find it a matter of difficulty to remain in their homesteads. They have even been prevented from supplying themselves with drinking water from the stream, which belongs to God alone.

GRAMVARTÁ
PRAKASHIKA,
December 28th, 1878.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 4th January 1879.

ROBERT ROBINSON,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

